

**CURRICULUM DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES  
FEBRUARY 17, 2009  
USOE BOARDROOM**

**1. Welcome (Lynne Greenwood)**

*Lynne welcomed everyone and offered kudos for those who braved the snow storm. We had several people who opted to join the meeting via polycom. (The meeting deviated from the printed agenda; the minutes will not.)*

**2. Competency-Based Measures (Dawn Hauser)**

*Dawn Hauser distributed an updated version of the Demonstrated Competency Assessment Guidelines. There are a couple of items to note:*

- *Fees are standardized at \$85.*
- *Jordan School District is a testing center. Ogden School District has also agreed to host a testing center.*
- *There is an issue regarding NCAA eligibility for college-bound students. If a course is "completed by exam," it is awarded the lowest possible grade which translates to a "D-."*
- *Finally, Dawn said that those wanting to test would need to go through a test center and not be given by individual districts due to several factors including maintaining test integrity, cost, and security issues.*

**3. Math for America (Diana Suddreth)**

*This program had its beginnings on the East Coast and in larger cities (i.e., New York, Washington, D.C., Los Angeles, San Francisco). This is an alternate route to licensure program where professionals are required to make a 5-year commitment. It pays participants for 1 year of coursework, which is considerable, and supplements their wage during this time. Funding is provided through legislation, private sources, and matching contributions. USOE is supportive of this program. However, now may not be the time given recent budget cuts. There are also hidden costs that would need to be considered given the time frame and necessary supervision at the district level.*

**4. The Year of Math (Lynne Greenwood)**

*Governor Huntsman has declared this to be The Year of Math. He intends to publicly recognize and spotlight different programs such as honor students, "Math Counts," UCTM Fall Conference, and the PCMI (Park City Math Institute which is known internationally).*

*Districts need to let USOE know their highlights.*

**5. Course Changes (Jennifer Lambert)**

*Links for a list of current course codes and course code changes for 2009-2010 can be accessed at*

*[http://www.schools.utah.gov/curr/main/Core\\_Codes/default.htm](http://www.schools.utah.gov/curr/main/Core_Codes/default.htm).*

*USOE had a January 11<sup>th</sup> deadline for the 2009-2010 codes changes, but that may not meet district needs. Please let Jennifer Lambert, Curriculum & Instruction's Data Steward, know by February 27<sup>th</sup> if your LEA needs an earlier date. Jennifer can be reached at [Jennifer.lambert@schools.utah.gov](mailto:Jennifer.lambert@schools.utah.gov).*

**6. Social Studies K-2 Integrated Core Update (Tom Sutton)**

*Tom Sutton is providing leadership to the Steering Committee working on the K-2 Integrated Core. There is a theme for each grade level which focuses on self and others in the family, in the neighborhood, and in the community now, long ago, and in the future for grades K-2 respectively. UEN will make the Integrated Core available on-line and will include appropriate resources for each grade level with a seamless flow to the 3-6 Core. The target date for document completion is May.*

*Velma Itamura, K-12 Science Specialist, will work to develop a K-2 Science Core that can be used as a stand-alone core or fold into the Integrated Core.*

**7. Core Academy (Max Ferre)**

*Budget concerns throughout the state have necessitated modification of professional development for 2009. Max Longhurst, who had been in charge of the Core Academy, has chosen to stay affiliated with USU. Max Ferre will oversee the 2009 Core Academy. (Max has a science background, was a principal in the Weber School District, and has been actively involved with the Core Academy in the past.)*

*The Core Academy is a 3-day workshop for K-6 teachers, which focuses on the areas of Math and Science. The 2009 Academy will accommodate 2,000 teachers and is scheduled at 8 locations. Dates are scheduled in June and July.*

*The best lessons from previous years will be updated and presented. Much thought has gone into chosen lessons and materials. There may be fewer take-home supplies, but it is felt that what is given will be used. Registration and fees are due by April 15. Please register at: [www.schools.utah.gov/curr/Core\\_Academy](http://www.schools.utah.gov/curr/Core_Academy). Please contact Jana Johnson at [jana.johnson@schools.utah.gov](mailto:jana.johnson@schools.utah.gov) with questions.*

#### **8. High School Redesign (Lynne Greenwood)**

*The intent of “high school redesign” is to improve student achievement and close the achievement gap. A comment was made that high schools today look the same as they did 30 and 40 years ago. To increase student achievement, one needs to keep the following points in mind:*

- *Rigorous Core (Core 40) (National core) (Some states’ core curricula were inadequate).*
- *Instructional Delivery (related to professional development).*
- *Student-Centric Instruction.*

*Teacher collaboration improves teaching which improves student learning. Teachers need to teach the way students are tested.*

*Charter schools have been good about advertising their strengths and promoting their services. Public schools have strong curricula but have not done a good job informing communities of their strengths.*

*Professional Learning Communities should be seen as a starting point. Leaders need to be thoughtful in discussing and forming a high school redesign. There is much that can be done without funding. Consider what is negotiable and what is non-negotiable.*

*“High school redesign” comments:*

*We need a strong core and our teachers need thorough knowledge of it.*

*The Core needs to be research-based.*

*Collaboration needs to occur between teachers and departments.*

*We need teachers to become highly qualified.*

*Sports would be negotiable.*

*Need to address attendance from a motivational viewpoint.*

*Improve instruction to engage students.*

*Need for strong leaders in our schools, not just managers.*

*The perception of high school needs to change and we need to understand the culture of high school.*

*Please let Lynne know your thoughts on this. [lynne.greenwood@schools.utah.gov](mailto:lynne.greenwood@schools.utah.gov)*

#### **9. Redesign of K-12 LA/ELP Standards (Reed Spencer)**

*Please see Reed’s power point presentation and the K-12 Core Revision Project Proposal. The links are available at <http://www.schools.utah.gov/curr/directors/>.*

*The intention here is not to rewrite the core, but reformat in K-12 documents that embed ELP standards.*

#### **10. Elementary School Maturation Program Revision (Frank Wojtech)**

*Frank extended an invitation for district leaders to preview the revised Elementary Maturation Curriculum on Thursday, February 26 at Salt Lake City School District Services Auxiliary Services Building (1005 W Beardsley Place [2480 South]) from 10:30-1:00. Lunch will be provided. Please RSVP to Jamie Ney ([jamie.ney@schools.utah.gov](mailto:jamie.ney@schools.utah.gov)) by February 24.*

#### **11. Secondary Math Endorsement and Additional Course Work (Diana Suddreth)**

*No changes will be made to the Secondary Math Endorsement Level II as had been proposed.*

*There are two training opportunities for math teachers:*

- *Foundations of Algebra (for Level 2 Teachers) which will be taught at USU by James Cangelosi (3 credits).*
- *Mathematics for Elementary Teachers I (for secondary teachers) which be taught at UofU (3 credits).*

#### **12. Elementary Math Endorsement (Lynne Greenwood)**

*Higher Ed and district leaders have each met to address math endorsement changes. There will be a combined committee meeting on Tuesday, February 24. Committee members have also discussed common syllabi, common semester credits, course contents, hours, and etc. as there are differences from one institution to another. Any proposed changes will be presented to curriculum directors’ prior to implementation. Districts have indicated they would like such a program to be implemented by this summer. There would need to be phase-in process for those teachers who are midway in class work.*

### **13. Professional Development Opportunity (Janet Gibbs)**

Ensuring Fidelity of Intervention Implementation will be held on March 9 at the Airport Hilton. Districts are encouraged to send teams of 3 to 5 people consisting of administrators, literacy leaders, curriculum directors, principals, Title I coordinators and etc. There is room for 150 groups.

There is no cost to register ([www.updc.org](http://www.updc.org)). The conference is being sponsored by USOE Special Education, Curriculum and Instruction, and Title I.

### **14. Utah Staff Development Council (Kerrie Naylor, Todd Billings)**

Kerrie Naylor informed the group of the desire to reinstate the Utah Staff Development Council with NSDC. Christine Huley is the current president; Todd Billings is the vice president. People interested in on-line professional development were asked to sign up. Please contact Kerrie or Todd for further [information.kerri.naylor@jordan.k12.ut.us](mailto:information.kerri.naylor@jordan.k12.ut.us).

### **15. Other (Lynne Greenwood)**

Lynne requested that all attendees give some thought to high-school redesign. Please forward issues on behalf of local districts via email to [lynne.greenwood@schools.utah.gov](mailto:lynne.greenwood@schools.utah.gov).

As are critical issues coming from the legislature, there may be an in-between meeting scheduled prior to April 30, which is the next scheduled Curriculum Directors' meeting.

### **16. Announcements and Future Events (Group)**

Please refer to page 2 of the agenda.

### **17. Legislative Update (Brenda Hales)**

Associate Superintendent Brenda Hales talked of budget issues and the 2009 legislative session. Highlight summaries include:

- The economic outlook for Utah, and the nation, in the immediate future is not good. Revenues continue to fall but are stabilizing. The 2009 legislature has completed the FY09 budget and does not plan to reopen it. Funding sources for 2009-2010 could include money from the federal stimulus package, the Rainy Day Fund (although they don't know how long it will rain), student reserves, bonding, fee and tax increases, Title I, and NCLB.
- Cuts occurring include Youth-at-Risk, Adult Education, Accelerated Learning, Concurrent Enrollment, High-Ability, ELL Centers, library books, school nurses, OEK, USTAR, POPS, Science Outreach, Carson Smith Scholarships, USTART, Financial Literacy, and the Head Start Program.
- Governor Huntsman has declared this as the "Year of Math." SB159 is concerned with the Math Initiative. (Please see Sub1.) The State Office has no objection to Singapore Math but is concerned with implementing this program right now, again because of current funding issues.
- Any funds that are considered "carry-over" funds could be in jeopardy of being wiped out. This could include funds from the K-3 Reading Initiative, OEK, and so on. Just be aware.
- USOE has not filled open positions since September. This will have an effect on processing time from USOE.
- There will be more accountability on expenses and stricter accounting. What you do with the funds may be left up to the district, but you may have to provide detailed reports on the expenses. Work is being done to provide tools. including electronic tools, to make reporting easier.
- Brenda referred attendees to a link on the USOE website (USOE 2009 Legislative Session Site) found at the bottom, right of the page. The link is: <http://www.schools.utah.gov/law/leg/>.

**Next Meeting: April 23, 2009  
Weber District Office  
5320 Adams Ave Parkway  
Ogden  
Polycom will be available**